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(54) **USE OF PRE-VALIDATED PATHS IN A WDM NETWORK**

(75) Inventors: **Alberto Tanzi**, Trezzano sul Naviglio (IT); **Maurizio Gazzola**, Milan (IT); **David Bianchi**, Cambiago (IT)

(73) Assignee: **Cisco Technology, Inc.**, San Jose, CA (US)

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See application file for complete search history.

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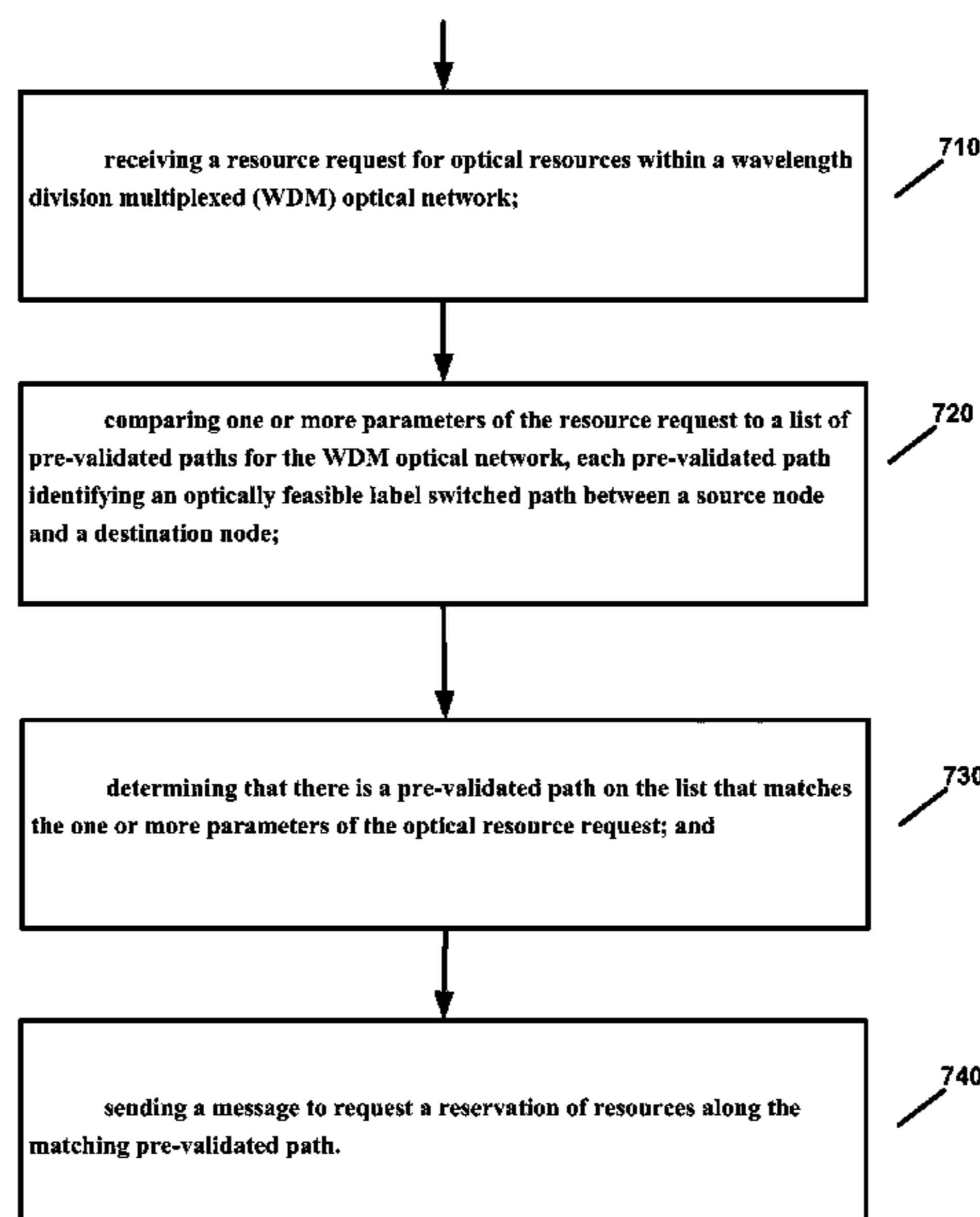
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Primary Examiner — Leslie Pascal

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Various example embodiments are disclosed. According to an example embodiment, a method may include receiving a resource request for optical resources within a wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) optical network; comparing one or more parameters of the resource request to a list of pre-validated paths for the WDM optical network, each pre-validated path identifying an optically feasible label switched path between a source node and a destination node; determining that there is a pre-validated path on the list that matches the one or more parameters of the optical resource request; and sending a message to request a reservation of resources along the matching pre-validated path.

22 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



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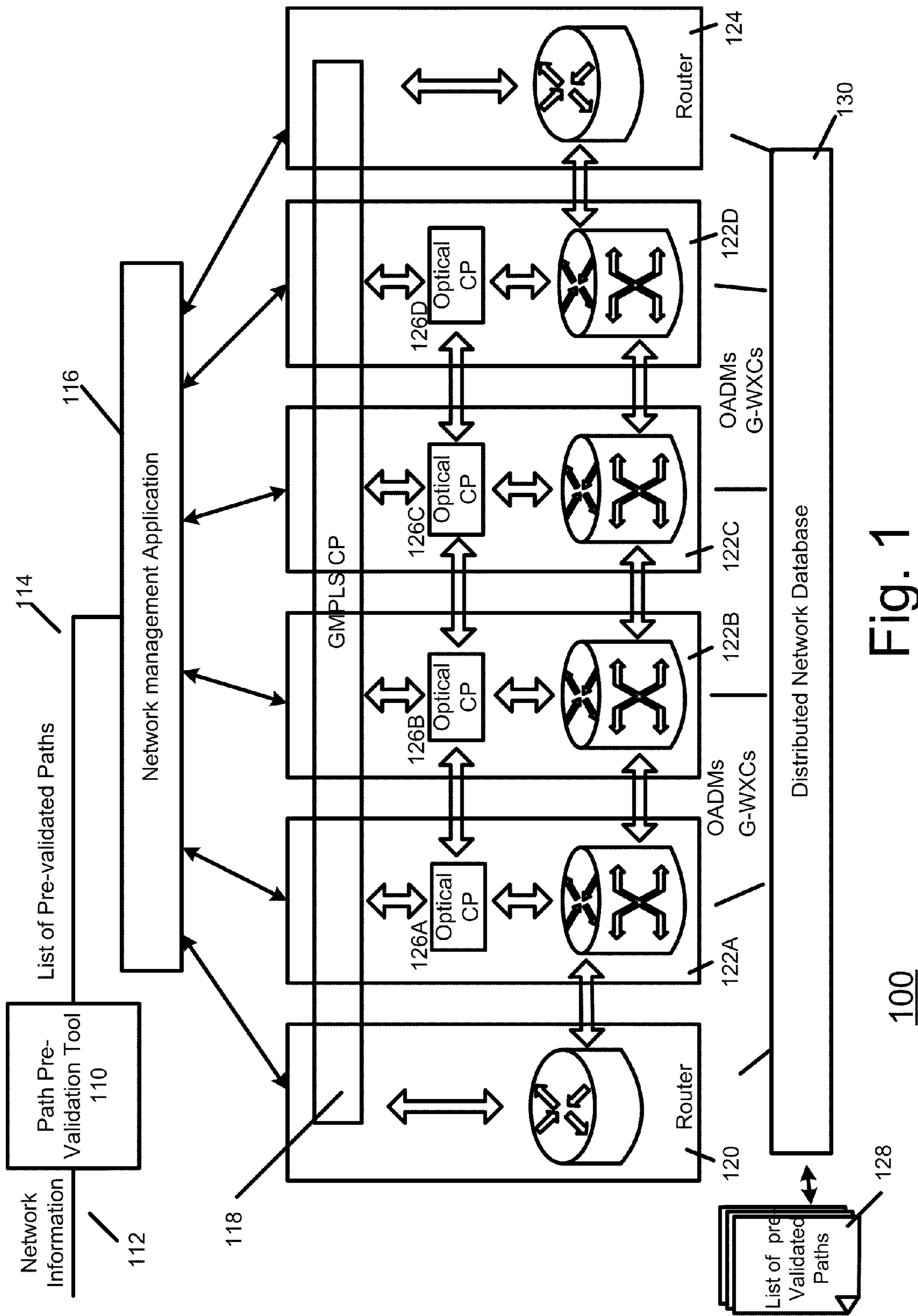


Fig. 1

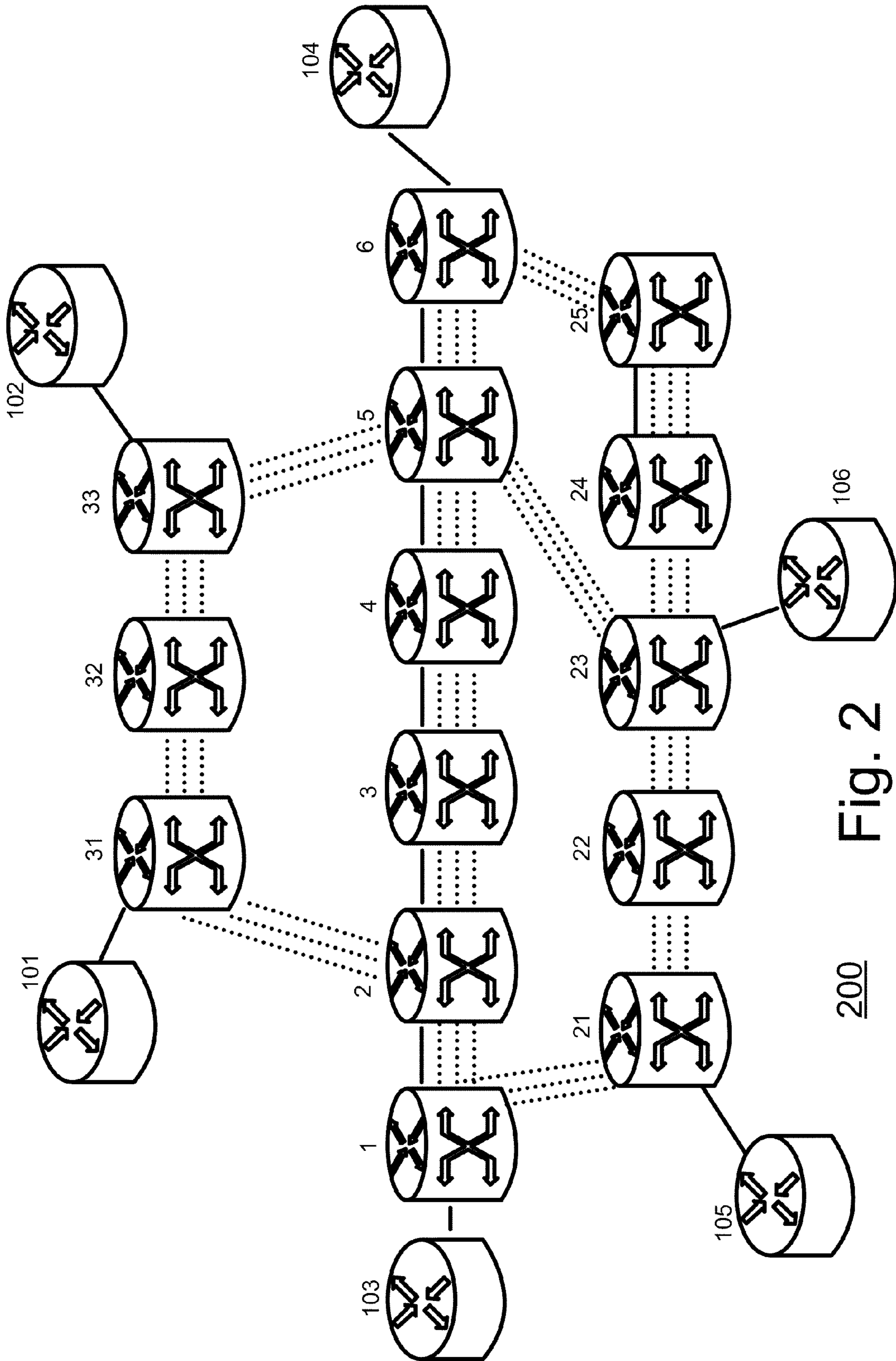
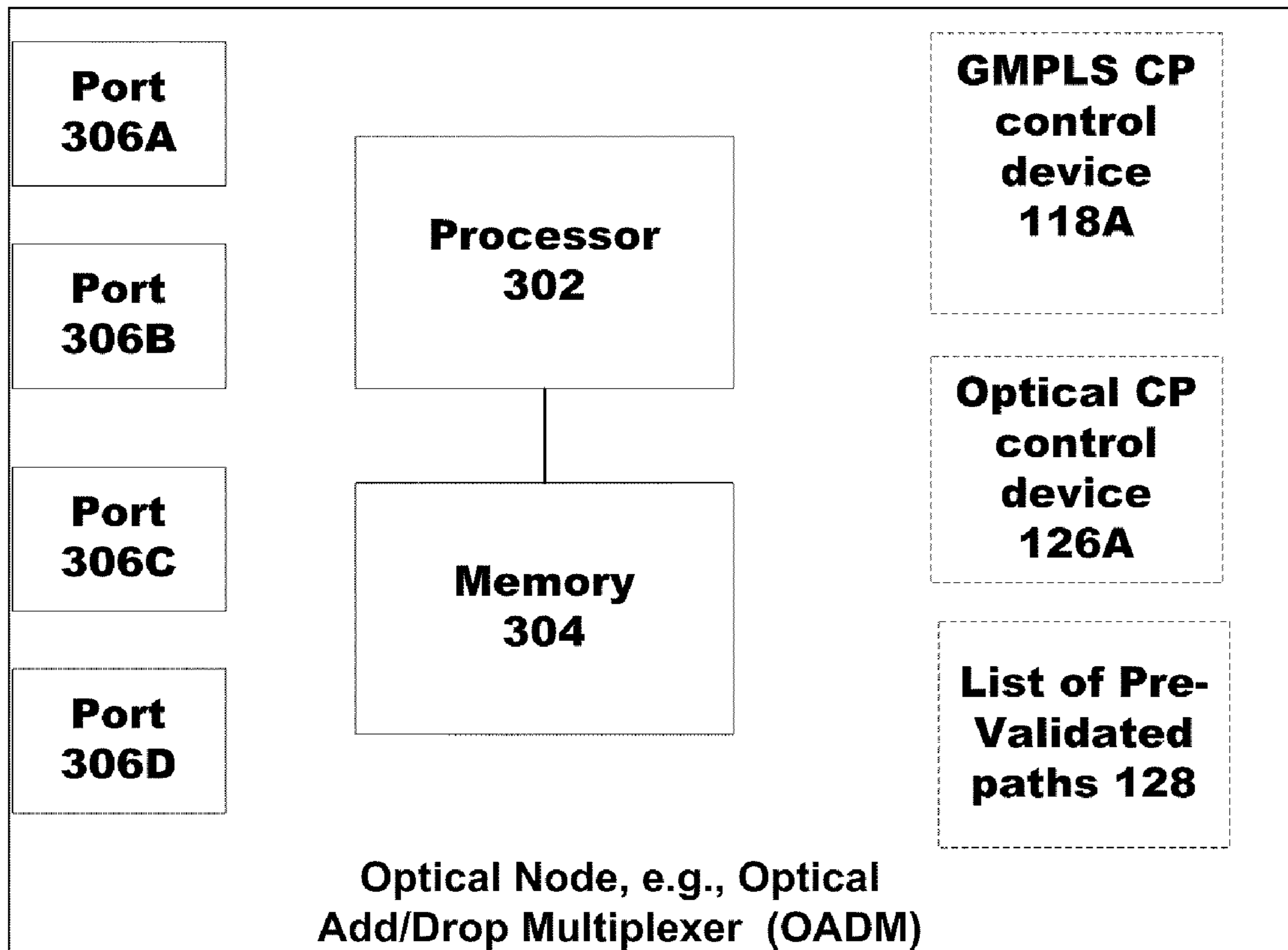


Fig. 2

200



122

Fig. 3

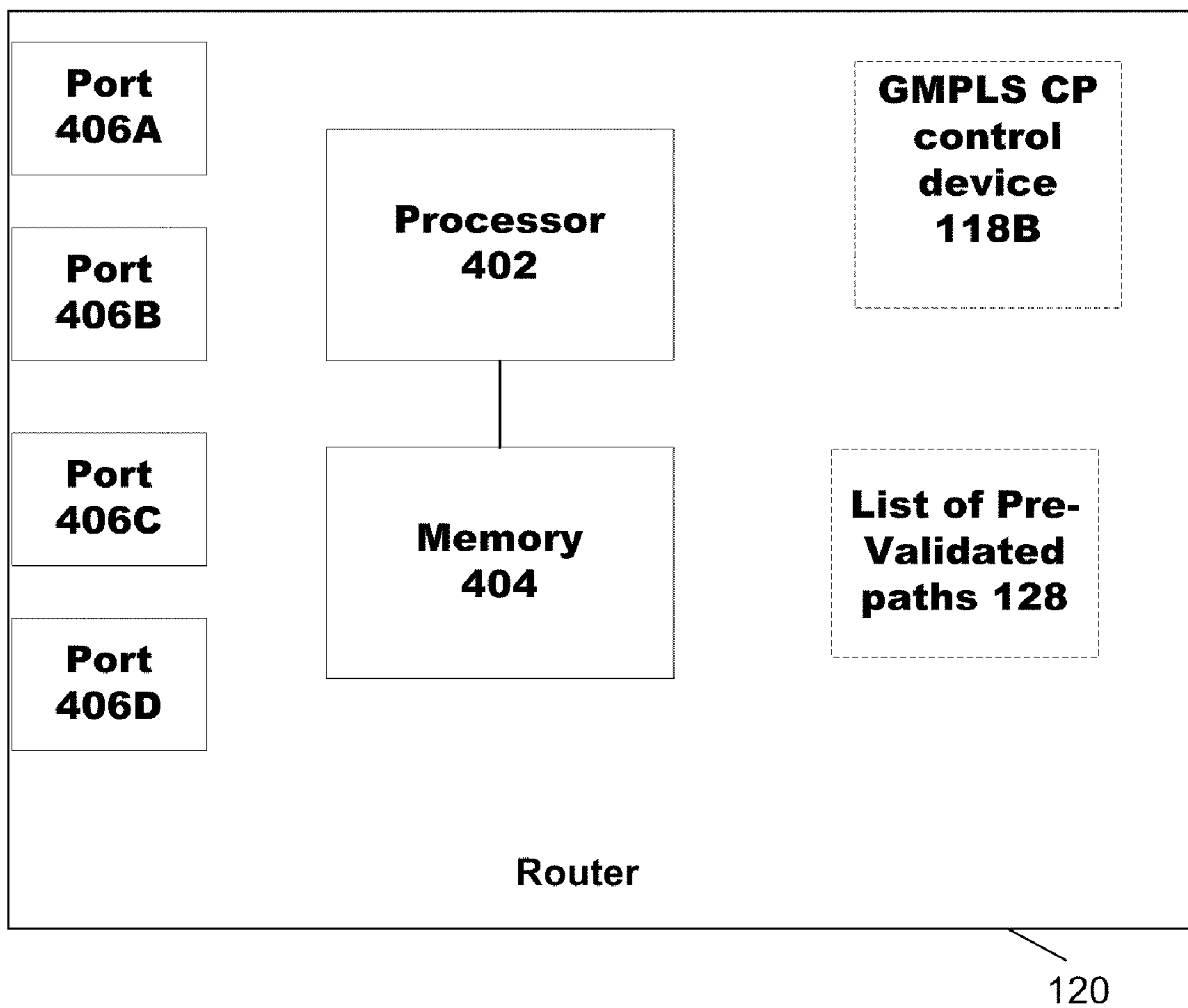


Fig. 4

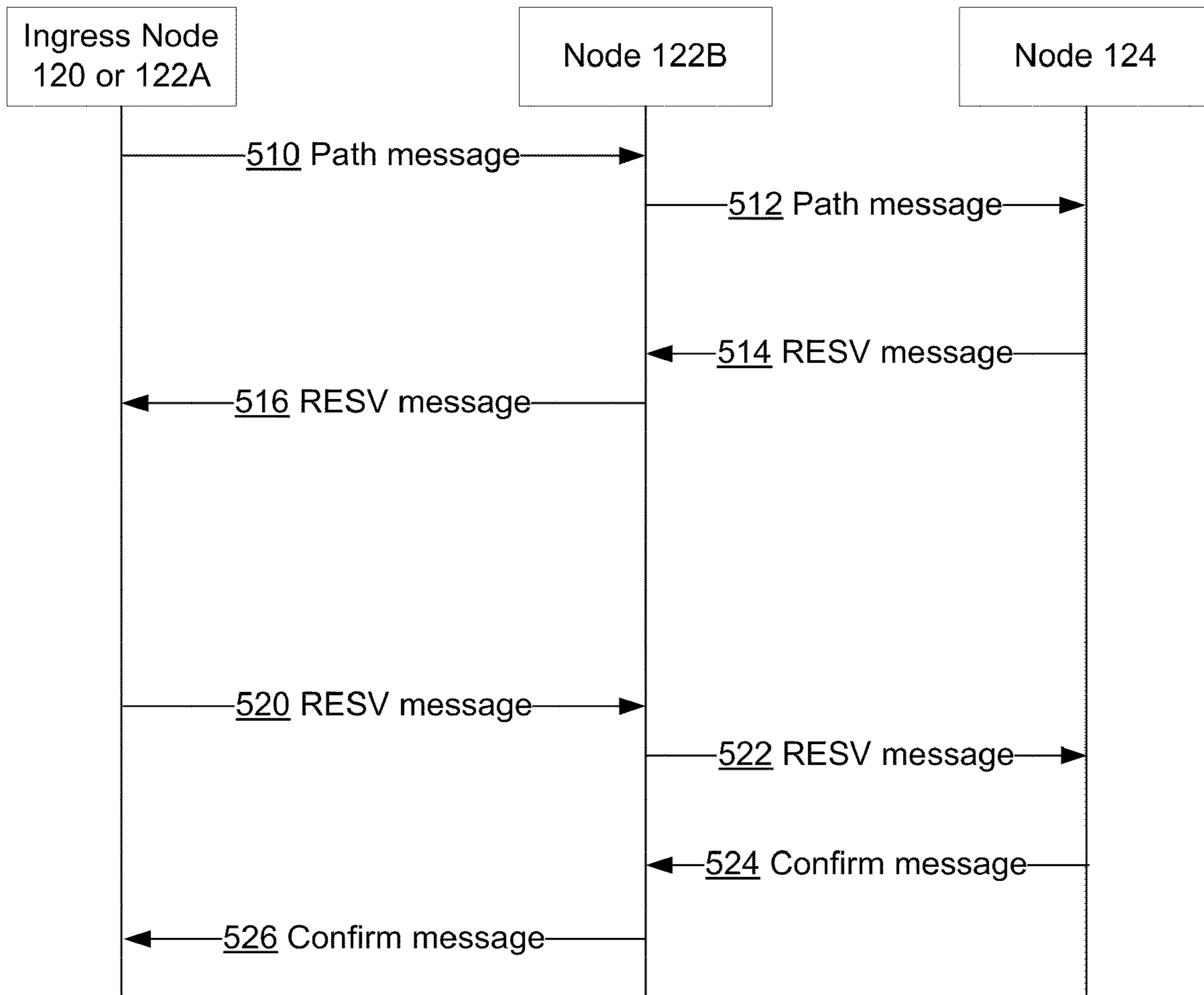


Fig. 5

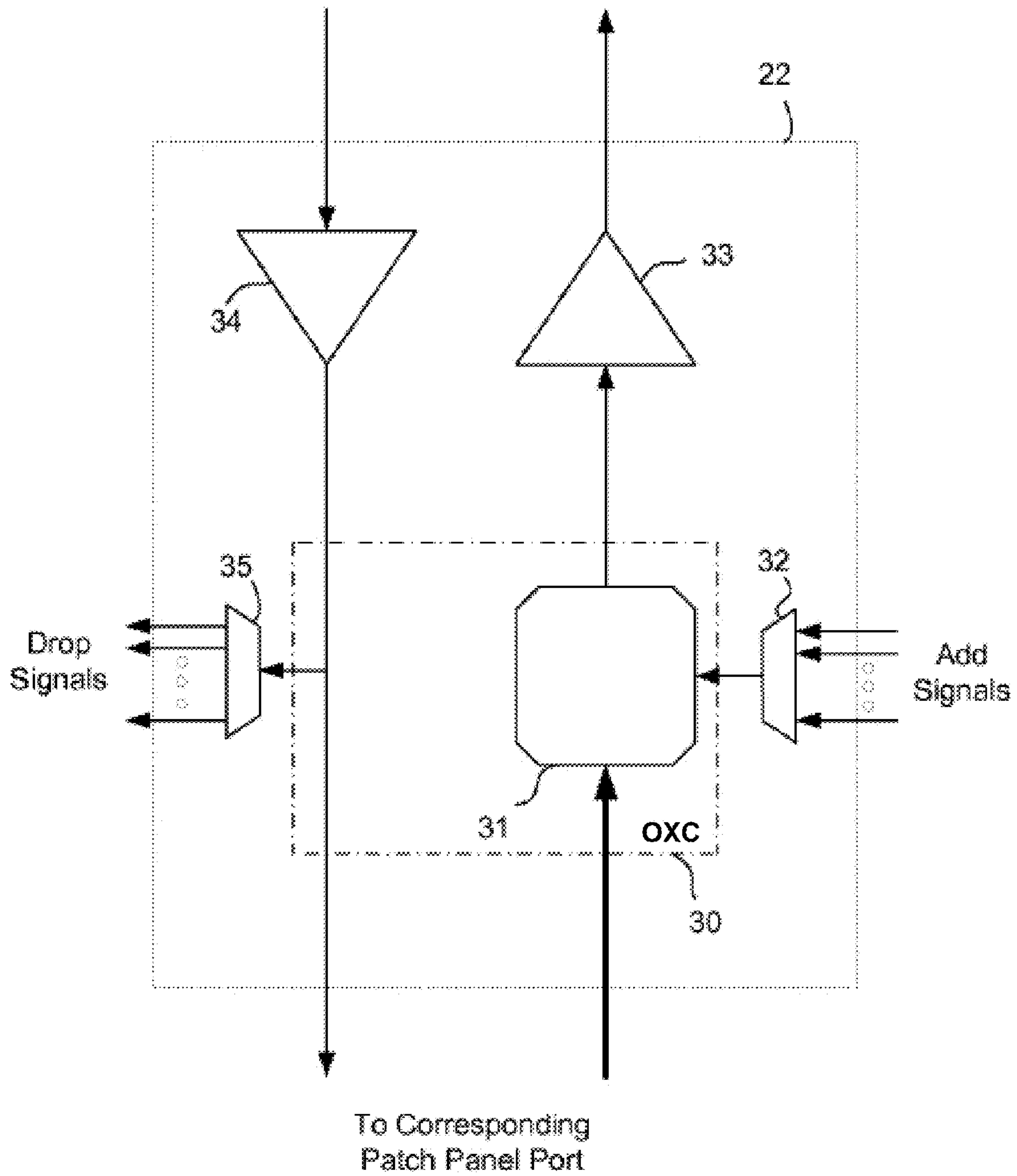
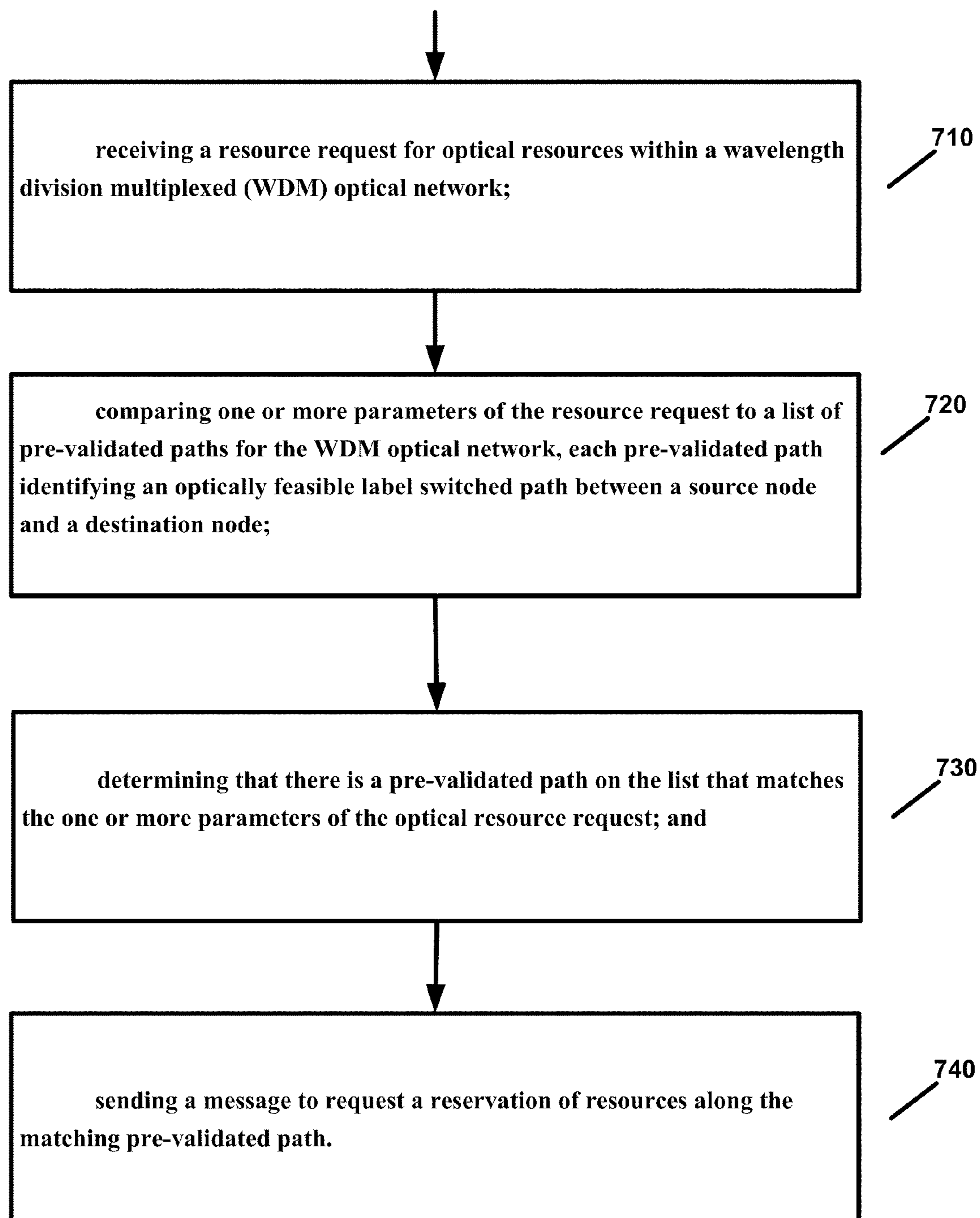


Fig. 6

**FIG. 7**

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USE OF PRE-VALIDATED PATHS IN A WDM NETWORK

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present disclosure relates generally to optical networks.

BACKGROUND

Dense wavelength division multiplexed (DWDM) optical networks are optical networks in which optical signals at different wavelengths may be transmitted over a common or shared optical fiber. Each wavelength may be considered an optical channel. MPLS (MultiProtocol Label Switching) and GMPLS (Generalized MultiProtocol Label Switching) may be used to determine a path (or route) through a network, and then allocate resources for the path, in a distributed manner, such as through a distributed control plane. Electronic control plane technologies do not typically consider the optical impairments nor determine the optical feasibility of optical paths.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a DWDM optical network according to an example embodiment.

FIG. 2 is a diagram illustrating operation of an optical network according to an example embodiment.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram of an optical node according to an example embodiment.

FIG. 4 is a block diagram of a router (or other network node) according to an example embodiment.

FIG. 5 is a diagram illustrating an example flow of messages that may be used to reserve resources along a pre-validated path according to an example embodiment.

FIG. 6 is a block diagram illustrating a portion of an optical node, such as a portion of an OADM, according to an example embodiment.

FIG. 7 is a flow chart illustrating operation of an optical network according to an example embodiment.

DESCRIPTION OF EXAMPLE EMBODIMENTS

Overview

According to an example embodiment, a method may include receiving a resource request for optical resources within a wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) optical network; comparing one or more parameters of the resource request to a list of pre-validated paths for the WDM optical network, each pre-validated path identifying an optically feasible label switched path between a source node and a destination node; determining that there is a pre-validated path on the list that matches the one or more parameters of the optical resource request; and sending a message to request a reservation of resources along the matching pre-validated path.

According to another example embodiment, an apparatus may include a processor, the processor being configured to cause the apparatus to: receive a resource request for optical resources within a wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) optical network; compare one or more parameters of the resource request to a list of pre-validated paths for the WDM optical network, each pre-validated path identifying an optically feasible label switched path between a source node and a destination node; determine that there is a pre-validated path on the list that matches the one or more parameters of the

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optical resource request; and send a message to request a reservation of resources along the matching pre-validated path.

According to another example embodiment, an apparatus may include means for receiving a resource request for optical resources within a wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) optical network; means for comparing one or more parameters of the resource request to a list of pre-validated paths for the WDM optical network, each pre-validated path identifying an optically feasible label switched path between a source node and a destination node; means for determining that there is a pre-validated path on the list that matches the one or more parameters of the optical resource request; and means for sending a message to request a reservation of resources along the matching pre-validated path.

Description

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a WDM optical network **100** according to an example embodiment. The WDM optical network **100** may be, for example, a DWDM optical network. Optical network **100** may include a number of nodes including routers **120** and **124** that perform routing functions, e.g., routing packets or data to one of a plurality of output ports based on a routing algorithm. Optical network **100** may also include optical nodes **122**, including optical nodes **122A**, **122B**, **122C**, **122D**. An optical fiber (or fibers) may be provided between each router and adjacent optical node **122**, and between adjacent optical nodes **122**. For example, there may be two fibers between adjacent nodes for bidirectional communication, e.g., a first optical fiber for transmitting optical signals from a node and a second fiber for receiving optical signals at the node. Optical nodes **122** may be, for example, Optical Add/Drop Multiplexers (OADMs) which may add optical signals, or may drop one or more optical signals before forwarding the optical signal via an optical fiber. The OADMs may be, for example, reconfigurable OADMs or ROADMs. Optical nodes **122** may provide entry (add) and exit (drop) points to the network. For example, for data transmitted from node **120** to **124**, optical node **122A** may be an entry point or ingress node, while optical node **122D** may be an exit point or egress optical node, for example. This is merely an example network **100**, and any number of routers, and optical nodes (e.g., OADMs) may be provided, and may be provided in a number of different configurations.

Each node may include an electronic control plane device, and these electronic control plane devices collectively may provide a GMPLS control plane (GMPLS CP) **118**. The GMPLS CP **118**, for example, may determine paths and may route messages, via GMPLS, through the network **100**, but does not necessarily take into account any optical impairments along the path, such as optical impairments introduced by components along a potential path, such as noise, attenuation, etc. Each optical node **122** may include an optical control plane (OCP) control device **126**. For example, optical nodes **122A**, **122B**, **122C** and **122D** may include OCP control devices **126A**, **126B**, **126C** and **126D**, respectively.

In an example embodiment, an ingress optical node, e.g., optical node **122A** may receive a request for bandwidth across optical network **100**, between a source node and a destination node. This may require the optical nodes to: determine a path; determine that the path is optically feasible; and, allocate or reserve resources along the path.

In one example embodiment, OCP control devices **126** may determine the optical feasibility of one or more paths through network **100**, e.g., from a source node to a destination

node, in response to the request for bandwidth. If feasibility is determined to be negative (path is not optically feasible), then the OCP control device may generate an error message that is sent to one or more other OCP control devices (including the OCP control device of the ingress optical node), and requests the electronic control plane to determine a new path (or new route between the source node and destination node). If the new path (new route between source node and destination node) is determined to be optically feasible, the optical nodes may then allocate or reserve resources for the path.

For example, one or more OCP control devices **126** may receive network information, which may be stored in a distributed network database **130**, e.g., where a copy (full or partial copy) of the network information may be stored in memory at each optical node **122**, for example. This network information may include a network configuration (or network topology) and optical parametric information for elements (e.g., optical splitters, OADMs, optical amplifiers, optical fibers) in the network **100**, e.g. The optical parametric information may include any information that may describe operation of the elements, such as the increase or decrease in power (such as optical signal attenuation) introduced by an element, optical noise (e.g., how much noise an optical amplifier may introduce), a number of ports, the wavelengths that may be used or available, and the like. For example, optical parametric information may include an amount of signal attenuation or power loss due to an optical fiber, and the amount of insertion loss by an optical splitter or OADM, as examples.

In an example embodiment, one or more OCP control devices **126** may determine the optical feasibility of an optical path, in response to a bandwidth request message, or a resource request. In this example, optical feasibility of a path is determined after a bandwidth request message or resource request has been received and the path determined. This may be referred to as a real-time, or on-the-fly optical feasibility calculation since the optical feasibility calculation may be performed after or in response to a bandwidth request message or resource request for a DWDM network.

In a simple example optical feasibility calculation, the path may be considered to be optically feasible if the power of the optical signal received at a destination node (or egress optical node of the WDM network) is greater than or equal to the receiver sensitivity (or minimum required power) of the destination node (or egress node). For example, an OCP control device (either by itself, or in a distributed manner), may subtract the cumulative power losses along the path (due to the various components along the path) from the initial transmitted optical signal power to obtain the received optical signal power at the destination node. If the received optical signal power is greater than a threshold (e.g., greater than or equal to receiver sensitivity at the destination node), then the path may be considered to be optically feasible. Otherwise, in this example, the path may be considered not to be optically feasible. This is a simple example, and other types of optical feasibility calculations may be performed.

Some paths (or routes) may be optically feasible only for certain optical wavelengths or channels. For example, a path for a first wavelength may be optically feasible, while the same path for a second (or different) wavelength may not be optically feasible due to different levels of performance by different wavelengths, at least in some cases. Other measurements or criteria may be used to determine optical feasibility, such as bit error rate at the receiving or destination node, etc.

As noted, one or more OCP control devices **126** may determine whether or not an optical path is feasible. If it is not optically feasible, an error message may be generated, and the GMPLS control plane **118** may then find or determine a new

path (a new route between the source node and destination node). Although not shown in FIG. 1, each node or router may include a GMPLS control plane control device **118A**, **118B**, Again, the optical control plane may determine whether this path is optically feasible. Eventually, a path may be identified that is optically feasible, resources may be allocated or reserved for the path, and data may be transmitted across the optical network, pursuant to the request for resources/bandwidth. However, performing the feasibility calculations for a path, on the fly (or in response to the optical resource request), may be a time consuming process, and as a result, may introduce network delays or latency.

Therefore, according to an example embodiment, a path pre-validation tool **110** may pre-validate one or more paths, which may include confirming that a path is optically feasible. A list of pre-validated paths may be provided via line **114** to a network management application **116**. Network management application **116** may provide the list of pre-validated paths to each (or to one or more) of the optical nodes **122**, e.g., via GMPLS CP **118**. The list of pre-validated paths **128** may be stored in the distributed network database **130**. For example, a copy of the list of pre-validated paths **128** may be stored in each (or at least one or more) of the optical nodes **122A**, **122B**, **122C**, **122D**, A copy of the pre-validated paths **128** may also be stored in each (or one or more) routers.

When a resource request is received at an optical node **122A**, e.g., specifying an amount of resources (which may be specified as a bandwidth, data rate, optical class, quality of service, or similar parameter), a source (or source node) and a destination (or destination node), the optical node **122A** may compare one or more parameters of the resource request to the list of pre-validated paths **128**. For example, the receiving node may compare the data rate, source and destination of the resource request to the data rate (or corresponding optical class), source and destination nodes of each pre-validated path, to determine if there is a match. The resource (or bandwidth) request may specify the source and destination as addresses, such as, for example, IP (Internet Protocol) addresses, or other identifiers. Thus, in one example embodiment, the source and destination IP addresses for the resource request may be compared to source and destination IP addresses in the list of pre-validated paths **128**. If there is a pre-validated path in the list **128** that matches (fulfills) the bandwidth request, then the receiving optical node **122A** may skip the optical feasibility calculation, since this path has been pre-validated or pre-calculated, and thus, it is already known that the pre-validated path is optically feasible. The list of pre-validated paths **128** includes a list of paths, where optical feasibility calculations has been (previously) performed for each path to confirm that each path on list **128** is optically feasible. Therefore, there is no need to repeat the optical feasibility calculations in response to receiving the resource request. In this case, where a path in the list of pre-validated paths **128** matches (or fulfills) the resource request, the receiving optical node **122A** may skip the optical feasibility calculations (since this path was previously determined as being optically feasible), and may send a message (e.g., via the GMPLS CP **118**) to reserve resources along the pre-validated path, such as using RSVP or resource reservation protocol.

After the resources along the path have been reserved or allocated, the data service may be provided, e.g., data may be transmitted along the matching pre-validated path. In this manner, through the use of the list of pre-validated paths, circuit provisioning delay may be reduced because the optical feasibility calculations for each pre-validated path has been performed in advance (e.g., before receipt of a resource

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request) for each path on the list **128**, and the feasibility calculations need not be repeated for such path. This may typically decrease the time needed to provision an optical circuit on the network and/or reduce usage of network resources, according to an example embodiment.

According to an example embodiment, each of the pre-validated paths (or pre-validated label switched paths) may be defined by the following (or by one or more of the following):

Source and destinations, e.g., source node and destination node (these may be the router that provides the request at the ingress side, and the router at the egress side), or this may be the ingress optical node that receives the request and the egress optical node (e.g., **122A** and **122D** in FIG. **1**).

Explicit path route, e.g., the hop to hop route from source node to destination node; thus, two different paths may have the same source and destination nodes, but may have different routes therebetween.

The wavelength (or optical channel) or set of wavelengths that can be used or assigned to the path along the route; the wavelength may be constant along the path or route, or may change in some regenerating nodes.

Optical class: the optical class identifies characteristics of the optical path, such as, for example, bitrate or data rate, modulation scheme and/or coding rate, minimum OSNR (optical signal to noise ratio) target, maximum CD (chromatic dispersion) robustness, etc. These are merely some example characteristics that may be defined by an optical class, other characteristics or parameters may be included or defined as well.

In an example embodiment, path pre-validation tool **110** may receive network information via line **112**. Network information may include, for example (but not limited to): information describing a topology of the network (or network configuration), and optical parametric information for elements or components in the network. The optical parametric information may be provided for elements or components in the network, such as for, e.g., optical splitters, OADMs, optical amplifiers, optical fibers, and other components in the network **100**. The optical parametric information may include any information that may describe elements or the operation of the elements, such as the increase or decrease in power (such as optical signal attenuation) introduced by an element, optical noise introduced by an optical amplifier, a number of ports for an optical node, the wavelength(s) that may be used or available, receiver sensitivity (or minimum required optical power for a received signal), and the like. For example, optical parametric information may include an amount of signal attenuation or power loss due to an optical fiber, and the amount of insertion loss (power loss) by an optical splitter or OADM, as examples.

Path pre-validation tool **110** may pre-validate one or more paths based on the received network information. As noted, copies of the list of pre-validated paths **128** may be transmitted from the network management application **116** to each (or one or more) of the optical nodes and stored in the distributed network database **130**, e.g., which may be a copy of the list of pre-validated paths stored in memory of each (or one or more) of the optical nodes.

Pre-validation may refer to the optical feasibility calculation for a path being performed in advance, e.g., before a resource request or bandwidth request is received and matched to such pre-validated path. Pre-validation may occur, for example, during the network design phase, or during network deployment, or after a network is complete or deployed. If a network is updated or changed, e.g., network elements are added, changed or removed or reconfigured,

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then paths may then be re-validated by the path pre-validation tool **110**. In such case, an updated list of pre-validated paths may be transmitted from network management application **116** and stored in distributed network database **130** (e.g., replacing the now outdated or inaccurate list **128** of pre-validated paths that was previously stored in database **130**).

In one example embodiment, network management application **116** may receive messages from optical nodes via GMPLS CP **118** that provide updates as to components in use and network topology of the network **100**. For example, network management application **116** may receive message(s) indicating that a group of optical nodes have been added, or that an optical node has been removed or is non-operational (either temporarily or permanently), or that some other change has occurred to optical network **100**. Based on the messages received indicating such change, network management application **116** may send a message to path pre-validation tool **110** indicating that a change has occurred, and may identify details of the change. This message may cause path pre-validation tool **110** to obtain updated network information (if not already received), and re-validate one or more paths for network **100**, and, then provide the updated list of pre-validated paths to network management application **116**, which is then provided to database **130**, for example.

FIG. **2** is a diagram illustrating operation of an optical network according to an example embodiment. The network **200** may include a number of routers, including routers **101**, **102**, **103**, **104** and **105**. Network **200** may also include a number of optical nodes (e.g., OADMs), such as optical nodes **1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, **5**, **6**, **21**, **22**, **23**, **24**, **25**, **31**, **32**, and **33**. The four parallel dashed lines connecting adjacent nodes represent four wavelengths (or optical channels) or lambdas, including: λ_1 , λ_2 , λ_3 , λ_4 . For simplicity, a number of elements or blocks shown in FIG. **1** may be present in FIG. **2**, but are not shown, such as, e.g., path pre-validation tool **110**, network management application **116**, distributed network database **130**, the electrical and optical control planes, etc.

In the example of FIG. **2**, a list of pre-validated paths has been calculated by path pre-validation tool **110** and stored in distributed network database **130** (e.g., each node may include a copy of the list of the pre-validated paths **128**).

In this example the list of pre-validated paths **128** stored in distributed network database **130** may include three paths or LSPs (label switched paths), including LSP1, LSP2 and LSP3, for example:

LSP1 (or Label Switched Path **1** or Path **1**):

Source **1** (identifying optical node **1**), Destination **6** (identifying optical node **6**)

Route **1-2** (from optical node **1** to optical node **2**), **2-3** (from optical node **2** to optical node **3**), **3-4** (from optical node **3** to optical node **4**), **4-5** (from optical node **4** to node **5**), **5-6** (from node **5** to node **6**). This identifies the hop-to-hop route for this path or LSP.

Wavelength=any λ (this path may be used or implemented using any of the four wavelengths)

Optical Class=A (as noted above, the optical class may identify various characteristics of the optical path, such as, for example, data rate, modulation scheme and/or coding rate, minimum OSNR (optical signal to noise ratio) target, maximum CD (chromatic dispersion) robustness, etc., as examples. Thus, different optical classes may indicate different values for each of these characteristics or parameters.)

Reserved=NO (According to an example embodiment, the resources for this path have not been reserved, and thus, may

be available for usage not only by LSP1 but also for any other LSP in the network, regardless whether pre-validated or not).

LSP2: Source 31, Destination 23

Route 31-2, 2-3, 3-4, 4-5, 5-23

Wavelength= λ_2 (this path can be implemented only using λ_2)

Optical Class=B

Reserved=YES (some resources for this path or LSP, such as λ_2 on the selected route, are reserved and not available for other LSPs).

LSP3: Source 33, Destination 21

Route 33-5, 5-4, 4-3, 3-2, 2-1, 1-21

Wavelength= λ_3 or λ_4 (this path can be implemented or used using either of these wavelengths but not λ_1 or λ_2)

Optical Class=C

Reserved=NO (thus, the resources for this path may be available, and also for other LSPs)

In this example, a resource request (or bandwidth request) may be received at optical node 1 (e.g., from router 103). Router 103 may request data service from router 103 (source node) to router 104 (destination node), and a data rate or bandwidth for bandwidth X. This request from router 103 to router 104 may correspond to optical node 1 as the source node, and optical node 6 as the destination node within the optical network, and node 1 may determine that bandwidth X (requested by router 103) may correspond to optical interface of class A (Optical class A) within the optical network.

Ingress node 1, for example, may compare one or more parameters of the resource request to the pre-validated paths 128 stored in the distributed network database 130 to determine if there is a match (a pre-validated path that fulfills the requested resources). The resource request may identify the source (or source node) and the destination (or destination node) by a source address and a destination address (provided in the resource request), respectively. The source and destination addresses may be specified as Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, for example, or other types of addresses or node identifiers. The receiving node or ingress node or ingress router, may map the source and destination IP addresses to corresponding nodes (e.g., routers or other nodes) in the network having (or being assigned) the specified IP addresses, for example. For example, the ingress node 1 may determine a node 1 as the source node and node 6 as the destination node based on the source IP address and destination IP address of the received bandwidth request message. Also, if necessary, the ingress node may map a requested data rate or bandwidth to a corresponding optical class, e.g., in order to compare the resource request to the list of pre-validated paths 128. Thus, the ingress node may compare an optical class corresponding to the requested data rate or bandwidth to the optical classes of entries in the list of pre-validated paths 128, for example.

Thus, ingress node 1 may perform a comparison of the source (or source node), destination (or destination node) and requested data rate/bandwidth/optical class of the resource request to the same (or corresponding) parameters of each entry in the list of the pre-validated paths 128 stored locally (or in the distributed network database 130). For example, the source node 1, destination node 6, and data rate/optical class=A of the bandwidth request matches the same parameters of the pre-validated path LSP1, which may be listed in the list of pre-validated paths 128. (An optical class that meets or exceeds the data rate in the resource request would match/fulfill the resource request).

Next, the ingress optical node 1 may determine whether the resources for this matching pre-validated path LSP1 have been reserved or not. In this case, the list of pre-validated

paths 128 indicates that the resources for LSP1 are not reserved (and thus may be available).

Next, the ingress node may send a message (e.g., RSVP Path message) to the next downstream node (node 2) requesting resources for the path LSP1, and identifying, e.g., the data rate (or similar bandwidth or quality of service, or optical class) and the wavelength. In this case, any of the four wavelengths (optical channels may be used for LSP1). Assuming requested resources (e.g., wavelength, and ingress/egress ports of the node 2) are available at node 2, node 2 may then forward the RSVP Path message onto the next downstream node, e.g., node 3. This process may be repeated until the RSVP Path message reaches the destination node (node 6). Node 6 may then reply with a RSVP Allocation or Reservation message indicating that requested optical resources have been allocated (e.g., ports of the node, and the wavelength have been allocated), which is forwarded to node 5 (the next upstream node); Node 5 then forward the RSVP Allocation/Reservation message to node 4, and etc., until the RSVP Reservation (or Allocation) message reaches node 1, which indicates the requested optical resources have been allocated or reserved from source to destination along the route indicated for LSP1 to provide the requested data service for LSP1. The reservation of resources along a path from node 1 to node 6 is indicated in FIG. 2 with a solid line from nodes 1 to 6, e.g., with the solid lines between each node indicating that the corresponding wavelengths has been reserved for use.

After a matching pre-validated path (LSP1 in this example of FIG. 2) has been identified from the list 128, and resources in the optical network have been reserved for this path, ingress node 1 may then receive data from router 103 and may begin transmitting the data over the LSP1 to node 6, using the pre-validated path LSP1 (e.g., via the reserved resources).

After the data has been transmitted, the path may be torn down by the ingress node 1 sending a tear down message across the path, from node 1 to node 6, which frees up (or makes available again) the reserved resources that were used for this LSP1.

Note that according to an example embodiment, in some cases, multiple implementations of a pre-validated path may be used at the same time. For example, if a pre-validated path indicates that multiple wavelengths may be used, then the pre-validated path may be used to transmit data on each of the indicated wavelengths. This may allow multiple versions of the pre-validated path to be implemented at the same time, each implementation of the path on a different optical channel or wavelength, for example. On the other hand, if a pre-validated path (such as LSP2 in the example of FIG. 2) indicates only one wavelength to be used for the path, then only one implementation of the pre-validated path may be done at a time. For example, in such case where a pre-validated path indicates only one wavelength/optical channel, once the indicated wavelength is in use, or has been reserved, then the LSP/path may not be used, since the LSP is limited to that one wavelength.

Referring to the optical network of FIG. 2 again, another bandwidth request may be received at node 1 from router 103. The bandwidth request may indicate data service from router 103 to router 102, with bandwidth Y (which may be greater than bandwidth X, for example). Ingress optical node 1 determines that this bandwidth request corresponds to a request for data service from optical node 1 to optical node 33, and for optical class B. In this example embodiment, the requested LSP (or path) is not on the list of pre-validated paths 128. Note that if a matching source node and destination node were in the list 128 from node 1 to node 33 (or from router 103 to router 102), but for optical class A, this path in list 128 would

not match the bandwidth request since it would be validated for a different data rate/optical class (e.g., validated for optical class A, when optical class B is requested, where optical class B may correspond to a higher data rate, for example).

In this example, the requested LSP is not in the list of pre-validated paths **128**. In such case, the ingress optical node may, on-the fly, use OSPF (open shortest path first routing algorithm) to determine a route from node **1** to node **33**, e.g., via GMPLS CP **118**. Once a route is determined, ingress node may use the optical control plane (OCP) to determine the optical feasibility of such path. If such path is feasible, then RSVP messages may be sent from node **1** to node **33** along the path to reserve the resources. Thus, to summarize this example:

1. the requested LSP is NOT present in the pre-validated LSP database
2. A new LSP is routed (e.g., via OSPF) and signalled (or resources reserved for the LSP, e.g., via RSVP) through the network and validate with OCP
3. New LSP is Reserved [λ 3 on path **1-2**, **2-3**, **3-4**, **4-5**, **5-33**]

Thus, it can be seen that in response to a bandwidth request, parameters of the bandwidth request may be compared to the list of pre-validated paths to determine if a match exists. If a match does exist, then resources may be reserved, and the pre-validated path may be used to transmit data, without performing optical feasibility calculations. If a match is not found in the list of pre-validated LSPs, then a new path is determined, e.g., using OSPF, feasibility calculations are performed (in response to the resource request) by the optical control plane in a distributed manner (and not using the pre-validated paths), and resources for the path may then be reserved.

FIG. **3** is a block diagram of an optical node **122** according to an example embodiment. The optical node may be or may include, for example, an optical add/drop multiplexer (OADM). The optical node **122** may include a plurality of ports **306**, such as ports **306A**, **306B**, **306C**, **306D**, etc. While only four ports are shown, any number of ports may be provided. Ports **306** may be, for example, optical ports that may provide an interface to an optical fiber, and each port may include an optical transmitter for transmitting signals over an optical fiber and an optical receiver for receiving optical signals over an optical fiber. Each (or one or more) optical nodes **122** may include a list of pre-validated paths **128**, an optical control plane control device **126A**, a GMPLS control plane control device **118A**, which are described above. Optical node **122** may also include a processor **302** for executing code or instructions and providing overall control for node **122**, and a memory **304** for storing information.

FIG. **4** is a block diagram of a router **120** (or other network node) according to an example embodiment. Router **120** may include one or more ports **406**, such as ports **406A**, **406B**, **406C**, **406D**, etc. Any number of ports may be provided. Ports **406** may provide a network interface, such as an optical interface, and may include an optical transmitter for transmitting information over an optical fiber and an optical receiver for receiving information over an optical fiber, for example. Router **120** may include a list of pre-validated paths **128** and a GMPLS control plane control device **118B**. Router **120** may also include a processor **402** for executing code or instructions and providing overall control for router **120**, and a memory **404** for storing information.

In an example embodiment, either an optical node **122** (e.g., processor **302** of the optical node), such as an ingress optical node, or a router **120** or **124** (e.g., processor **402** of the router) may receive a resource request for optical resources,

compare parameters of the resource request to a list of pre-validated paths **128**, and determine if there is a match between the resource request and one of the paths on the list of pre-validated paths **128**, and then send one or more messages along the matching pre-validated path to reserve resources along the matching pre-validated path (along the route for the matching pre-validated path).

In general, a label switched path (LSP) may be established for the pre-validated path to allow traffic for the data request or flow to be transmitted from source or ingress node to the destination node, e.g., from node **120** to node **124**, via one or more intermediate optical nodes or OADMs. A label switched router (LSR), or a LSR capable optical node, may establish the LSP, e.g., using RSVP or GMPLS Path and/or RESV messages, for example. A label switched router or LSR (e.g., such as node **120**, **124**, as examples) may perform label switching by establishing a relation or association between a <input port, input label> and an <output port, output label>. Optical nodes, such as OADMs, may include an optical cross connect (OXC) for switching an optical data stream between an input port and an output port of the optical node, and for specific wavelengths or channels. Therefore, an optical node may perform switching by establishing a relation or association between an <input port, input optical channel/wavelength> and an <output port, output optical channel/wavelength>. Therefore, for optical nodes or OADMs, labels may be provided as an optical channel or optical wavelength, for example.

FIG. **5** is a diagram illustrating an example flow of messages that may be used to reserve resources along a pre-validated path according to an example embodiment. A number of different messages or requests may be used, and the illustration in FIG. **5** shows some examples, and others may be used.

Ingress node **120** or **122A** may send a RSVP (Resource Reservation Protocol) or GMPLS Path message **510** to a next (intermediate) node **122B** or OADM along a matching pre-validated path, e.g., in order to request the reservation or allocation of resources to service this resource request. The packets or data associated with this resource request may be referred to as a flow, for example. The Path message **510** may include or identify a flow ID or a label, information describing the resource request (e.g., the wavelength(s) that are being requested or may be used, a bandwidth or data rate, etc.), and may include the explicit path (the hop to hop route for the matching pre-validated path) for which resources are being requested. Similarly, each intermediate node (only one intermediate node **122B** is shown, but any number may be provided) forward the path message along the explicit path to the destination node **124**. Therefore, node **122B** may send a Path message **512** to destination node **124**.

In an example embodiment, destination node **124** may send a reservation (RESV) message **514** to node **122B**, for example. Node **122B**, upon receipt of the reservation message **514**, may assign resources for this flow (or LSP or resource request), including, e.g., input port and input wavelength/channel, and an output port and output wavelength/channel, and may create a binding or association between the input and output resources, e.g., create an association between the input port/input channel, and output port/output channel. Similarly, node **122B** may send a RESV or reservation message (e.g., confirming that resources have been reserved or allocated to service the resource request or flow) to a next intermediate node (not shown). This RESV message may confirm that resources have been reserved, for example, and may identify the port and/or wavelength/channel to be used for that hop (e.g., which may be used by the OXC for optical switching).

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Each intermediate optical node or OADM may similarly allocate resources (input port/input channel, output port/output channel), and create an association between the input and output resources. Finally, the reservation message **516** is received by the ingress node **120** or **122A**, which indicates that resources have been reserved along the matching pre-validated path. The ingress node **120/122A** may then begin transmitting data along the matching pre-validated path via the reserved resources.

According to another example embodiment, as shown in FIG. 5, ingress node **120** or **122A** may send a reservation (RESV) message **520** requesting that resources be reserved for a flow or data request or LSP. The RESV message **520** may include, for example, include or identify a flow ID or a label, information describing the resource request (e.g., the wavelength(s) that are being requested or may be used, a bandwidth or data rate, etc.), and may include the explicit path (the hop to hop route for the matching pre-validated path) for which resources are being requested. The RESV message **522** is forwarded by node **122B** and any intermediate nodes, to destination node **124**. Each optical node or OADM may then reserve or allocate resources for this LSP, flow or data request, including <input port, input optical channel/wavelength> and an <output port, output optical channel/wavelength>. A confirmation message, indicating that resources have been reserved, may be forwarded as messages **524** and **526**. FIG. 6 is a block diagram illustrating a portion of an optical add/drop multiplexer (OADM) according to an example embodiment. The OADM may include a block **22** that may include optical amplifiers **33** and **34**, a multiplexer **32** receiving add signals, and a demultiplexer **35** outputting drop signals. The OADM may include an optical cross connect (OXC) **30**, which may include a wavelength-selective switch **31**. Wavelength selective switch **31** may be controlled by a processor, e.g., by processor **302** (FIG. 3) at an OADM to receive and select an optical signal for the pre-validated path on an input port and an input wavelength. The block **22** shown in FIG. 6 may be coupled to a patch panel (not shown). For example, the patch panel, as part of the OADM, may operate to switch signals between different ports of the OADM, e.g., under control of processor **302**. Thus, the OADM, including the OXC **30** and patch panel, may switch the received optical signal from the input port and wavelength to an associated output port and output wavelength or channel. The input and output wavelengths/channels may be the same or may be different at an OADM. This is merely an example, and other examples or implementations of an optical node may be used. Some examples of an optical node are described in US Published application US2009/0034978, as an example.

FIG. 7 is a flow chart illustrating operation of an optical network according to an example embodiment. Operation **710** may include receiving (e.g., via a port **306** and processor **302**) a resource request for optical resources within a dense wavelength division multiplexed (DWDM) optical network. Operation **720** may include comparing (e.g., by processor **302**) one or more parameters of the resource request to a list of pre-validated paths for the DWDM optical network, each pre-validated path identifying an optically feasible label switched path between a source node and a destination node. Operation **730** may include determining (e.g., by processor **302**) that there is a pre-validated path on the list that matches the one or more parameters of the optical resource request. Operation **740** may include sending (e.g., via a port **306**, GMPLS CP controller **118A**, and processor **302**) a message to request a reservation of resources along the matching pre-validated path. For example, operation **540** may include sending a message (e.g., RSVP Path message) to the next down-

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stream node requesting (or reserving) resources for the matching pre-validated path. This message may be forwarded to additional nodes along the matching path (to reserve resources along the matching pre-validated path), and a reply or confirmation (confirming that resources for the matching path have been reserved) may be returned to the initiating or ingress node or ingress optical node. A number of alternative embodiments will be briefly described with reference to FIG. 7.

In an example embodiment, operation **710** may include receiving (e.g., via port **306** and processor **302**) a resource request that requests optical resources between a source node and a destination node of a dense wavelength division multiplexed (DWDM) optical network, the resource request including a plurality of parameters including a source node, a destination node, and a resource amount.

In an example embodiment, the source node and the destination node may be identified by the resource request by Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, and wherein each of the pre-validated paths specifies a hop-to-hop route from a source node to a destination node.

In an example embodiment, the resource amount identifies a requested data rate or bandwidth. In another example embodiment, the resource amount identifies a requested optical class.

In another example embodiment, the resource request may identify at least a source node, a destination node and an amount of resources, wherein the comparing may include: comparing the amount of resources of the resource request to an amount of resources of each of one or more of the pre-validated paths to determine if any of the pre-validated paths would meet or exceed the amount of resources identified by the resource request; and comparing a source node and a destination node of the resource request to a source node and a destination node of each of one or more of the pre-validated paths to find a match.

In an example embodiment, operation **740** may include: determining (e.g., by processor **302**) one or more optical wavelengths of the matching pre-validated path; and, sending (e.g., by processor **302**, GMPLS CP control device **118A**, and/or port **306**) a message to request a reservation of resources along the matching pre-validated path, the message including at least the destination node, the amount of resources, and the one or more determined optical wavelengths, the resources to be reserved include one or more ports on each of one or more optical nodes along the matching pre-validated path and at least one of the determined optical wavelengths.

In an example embodiment, operation **740** may include: sending (e.g., by processor **302**, GMPLS CP control device **118A**, and/or port **306**) a message to request a reservation of resources along the matching pre-validated path, without performing optical feasibility calculations for the matching pre-validated path based on the matching pre-validated path being previously determined as being optically feasible.

The flow chart of FIG. 7 may further include: receiving (e.g., by processor **302**, GMPLS CP control device **118A**, and/or port **306**) a confirmation that resources along the matching pre-validated path have been reserved, the resources including at least a port on each of one or more optical nodes and an optical wavelength or optical channel for use in transmitting data; and, transmitting (e.g., by processor **302**, and/or port **306**) data along the matching pre-validated path using the reserved resources.

According to an example embodiment, an apparatus (e.g., optical node **122**, or portion thereof) may include a processor (e.g., processor **302**), the processor being configured to cause

the apparatus to: receive a resource request for optical resources within a dense wavelength division multiplexed (DWDM) optical network; compare one or more parameters of the resource request to a list of pre-validated paths for the DWDM optical network, each pre-validated path identifying an optically feasible label switched path between a source node and a destination node; determine that there is a pre-validated path on the list that matches the one or more parameters of the optical resource request; and send a message to request a reservation of resources along the matching pre-validated path.

A number of alternatives of the apparatus will be briefly described. In an example embodiment, the processor being configured to cause the apparatus to receive may include the processor being configured to cause the apparatus to receive a resource request that requests optical resources between a source node and a destination node of a dense wavelength division multiplexed (DWDM) optical network, the resource request including a plurality of parameters including a source node, a destination node, and a resource amount.

In an example embodiment, the source node and the destination node may be identified by the resource request by Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, and wherein each of the pre-validated paths specifies a hop-to-hop route from a source node to a destination node.

In an example embodiment, the resource amount may identify a requested data rate, a bandwidth or a requested optical class.

In an example embodiment, the resource request may identify at least a source node, a destination node and an amount of resources, wherein the processor being configured to cause the apparatus to compare may include the processor (e.g., 302) being configured to cause the apparatus to: compare the amount of resources of the resource request to an amount of resources of each of one or more of the pre-validated paths to determine if any of the pre-validated paths would meet or exceed the amount of resources identified by the resource request; and compare a source node and a destination node of the resource request to a source node and a destination node of each of one or more of the pre-validated paths to find a match.

In an example embodiment, the processor being configured to cause the apparatus to send may include the processor being configured to cause the apparatus to: determine one or more optical wavelengths of the matching pre-validated path; and send a message to request a reservation of resources along the matching pre-validated path, the message including at least the destination node, the amount of resources, and the one or more determined optical wavelengths, the resources to be reserved include one or more ports on each of one or more optical nodes along the matching pre-validated path and at least one of the determined optical wavelengths.

In an example embodiment, the processor being configured to cause the apparatus to send may include the processor being configured to cause the apparatus to: send a message to request a reservation of resources along the matching pre-validated path, without performing optical feasibility calculations for the matching pre-validated path based on the matching pre-validated path being previously determined as being optically feasible.

In an example embodiment, the processor (e.g., 302) may be further configured to cause the apparatus to: receive a confirmation that resources along the matching pre-validated path have been reserved, the resources including at least a port on each of one or more optical nodes and an optical wavelength or optical channel for use in transmitting data; and transmit data along the matching pre-validated path using the reserved resources.

According to another example embodiment, an apparatus may include:

means for receiving (e.g., port 306 and/or processor 302) a resource request for optical resources within a dense wavelength division multiplexed (DWDM) optical network; means for comparing (e.g., processor 302) one or more parameters of the resource request to a list of pre-validated paths for the DWDM optical network, each pre-validated path identifying an optically feasible label switched path between a source node and a destination node; means for determining (e.g., processor 302) that there is a pre-validated path on the list that matches the one or more parameters of the optical resource request; and means for sending (e.g., by processor 302, GMPLS CP control device 118A, and/or port 306) a message to request a reservation of resources along the matching pre-validated path.

In an example embodiment, the means for sending may include:

means for sending (e.g., by processor 302, GMPLS CP control device 118A, and/or port 306) a message to request a reservation of resources along the matching pre-validated path, the message being sent without performing optical feasibility calculations for the matching pre-validated path based on the matching pre-validated path being previously determined as being optically feasible.

While certain features of the described implementations have been illustrated as described herein, many modifications, substitutions, changes and equivalents will now occur to those skilled in the art.

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

receiving a resource request for optical resources within a wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) optical network;

comparing one or more parameters of the resource request to a list of pre-validated paths for the WDM optical network, each pre-validated path identifying an optically feasible label switched path between a source node and a destination node;

determining that there is a pre-validated path on the list that matches the one or more parameters of the optical resource request; and

sending a message to request a reservation of resources along the matching pre-validated path.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving comprises receiving a resource request that requests optical resources between a source node and a destination node of a wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) optical network, the resource request including a plurality of parameters including a source node, a destination node, and a resource amount.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the source node and the destination node are identified by the resource request by Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, and wherein each of the pre-validated paths specifies a hop-to-hop route from a source node to a destination node.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the resource amount identifies a requested data rate.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein the resource amount identifies a requested optical class.

6. The method of claim 1, where the resource request identifies at least a source node, a destination node and an amount of resources, wherein the comparing comprises:

comparing the amount of resources of the resource request to an amount of resources of each of one or more of the pre-validated paths to determine if any of the pre-validated paths would meet or exceed the amount of resources identified by the resource request; and

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comparing a source node and a destination node of the resource request to a source node and a destination node of each of one or more of the pre-validated paths to find a match.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the sending comprises: 5
determining one or more optical wavelengths of the matching pre-validated path;

sending a message to request a reservation of resources along the matching pre-validated path, the message including at least the destination node, the amount of resources, and the one or more determined optical wavelengths, the resources to be reserved include one or more ports on each of one or more optical nodes along the matching pre-validated path and at least one of the determined optical wavelengths. 10

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the sending comprises: sending a message to request a reservation of resources along the matching pre-validated path, without performing optical feasibility calculations for the matching pre-validated path based on the matching pre-validated path being previously determined as being optically feasible. 20

9. The method of claim 1 and further comprising: receiving a confirmation that resources along the matching pre-validated path have been reserved, the resources including at least a port on each of one or more optical nodes and an optical wavelength or optical channel for use in transmitting data; 25

transmitting data along the matching pre-validated path using the reserved resources.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the pre-validated paths are validated prior to receipt of the resource request. 30

11. An apparatus comprising a processor, the processor being configured to cause the apparatus to:

receive a resource request for optical resources within a wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) optical network; 35

compare one or more parameters of the resource request to a list of pre-validated paths for the WDM optical network, each pre-validated path identifying an optically feasible label switched path between a source node and a destination node; 40

determine that there is a pre-validated path on the list that matches the one or more parameters of the optical resource request; and

send a message to request a reservation of resources along the matching pre-validated path. 45

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the processor being further configured to cause the apparatus to pre-validate the paths prior to receipt of the resource request.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the processor being configured to cause the apparatus to receive comprises the processor being configured to cause the apparatus to receive a resource request that requests optical resources between a source node and a destination node of a wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) optical network, the resource request including a plurality of parameters including a source node, a destination node, and a resource amount. 50

14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the source node and the destination node are identified by the resource request by Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, and wherein each of the pre-validated paths specifies a hop-to-hop route from a source node to a destination node. 60

15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the resource amount identifies a requested data rate.

16. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the resource amount identifies a requested optical class.

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17. The apparatus of claim 11, where the resource request identifies at least a source node, a destination node and an amount of resources, wherein the processor being configured to cause the apparatus to compare comprises the processor being configured to cause the apparatus to:

compare the amount of resources of the resource request to an amount of resources of each of one or more of the pre-validated paths to determine if any of the pre-validated paths would meet or exceed the amount of resources identified by the resource request; and

compare a source node and a destination node of the resource request to a source node and a destination node of each of one or more of the pre-validated paths to find a match.

18. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the processor being configured to cause the apparatus to send comprises the processor being configured to cause the apparatus to:

determine one or more optical wavelengths of the matching pre-validated path; and

send a message to request a reservation of resources along the matching pre-validated path, the message including at least the destination node, the amount of resources, and the one or more determined optical wavelengths, the resources to be reserved include one or more ports on each of one or more optical nodes along the matching pre-validated path and at least one of the determined optical wavelengths. 25

19. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the processor being configured to cause the apparatus to send comprises the processor being configured to cause the apparatus to:

send a message to request a reservation of resources along the matching pre-validated path, without performing optical feasibility calculations for the matching pre-validated path based on the matching pre-validated path being previously determined as being optically feasible. 30

20. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the processor being further configured to cause the apparatus to:

receive a confirmation that resources along the matching pre-validated path have been reserved, the resources including at least a port on each of one or more optical nodes and an optical wavelength or optical channel for use in transmitting data; and

transmit data along the matching pre-validated path using the reserved resources.

21. An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a resource request for optical resources within a wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) optical network;

means for comparing one or more parameters of the resource request to a list of pre-validated paths for the WDM optical network, each pre-validated path identifying an optically feasible label switched path between a source node and a destination node;

means for determining that there is a pre-validated path on the list that matches the one or more parameters of the optical resource request; and

means for sending a message to request a reservation of resources along the matching pre-validated path. 55

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the means for sending comprises:

means for sending a message to request a reservation of resources along the matching pre-validated path, the message being sent without performing optical feasibility calculations for the matching pre-validated path based on the matching pre-validated path being previously determined as being optically feasible.